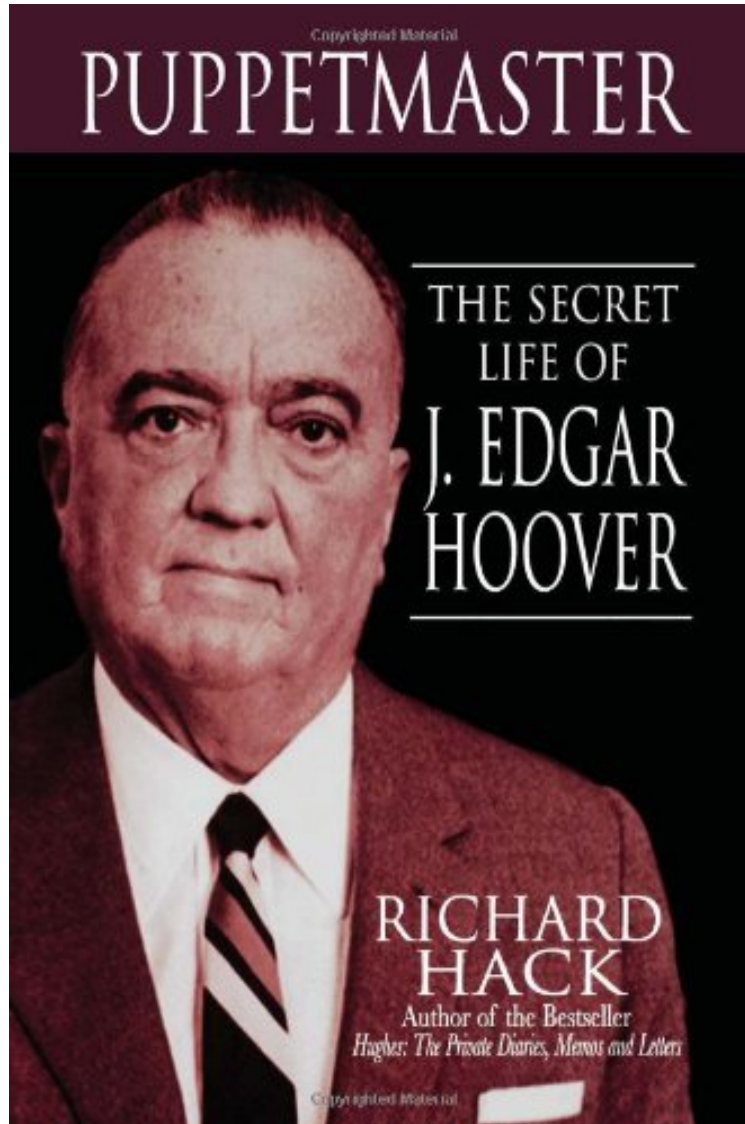


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Puppetmaster: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover

Richard Hack

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Richard Hack : Puppetmaster: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Puppetmaster: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Danger of Absolute PowerBy CustomerAs Lord Acton presciently said "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely!" Sad to say Hoover embodied that aphorism to the nth degree, having begun his career on the high moral ground of protecting the public and bringing criminals to justice, but as his power grew he began to slip into corruption and when his power became absolute, he grew seamlessly into absolute corruption--breaking every constitutional provision in his way to achieve

his goals and having innocent people executed for crimes they did not commit, continually using his FBI agents as cowed and willing instruments of his corruption. Everyone interested in the good of society and justice and equal protection of the law should read this book and commit its lessons to memory. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Civil Service corrupted By Mary K. Hughes Very interesting to read the inner workings of the FBI while my parent was employed under the thumb of J Edgar Hoover. Current civil service employees would be fired or worse for activities Mr Hoover oversaw or was directly responsible for.....remuneration for books and shows and spying on people for reasons seldom substantiated. 8 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An Unscrupulous Way To Stay In Power By Bill Emblom Richard Hack has written a biography that really doesn't tell us anything we didn't already know about J. Edgar Hoover, a strange man who headed the F.B.I. for several decades. Hoover kept files on the skeletons in the closet, both real and imagined, on people whose behavior he wanted to control. Hoover used this blackmail to remain in office throughout the changes in the political climate in Washington. His idea of a good read would be to remain home and sift through the files of various individuals and entertain himself with the perceived weaknesses of others. The man who had files on so many people should have had a file himself. Perhaps it gave him comfort to know others had problems that he had a difficult time facing in himself. He was a glory hunter who wanted the credit to go to him in highly publicized cases such as the cases of John Dillinger and "Baby Face" Nelson. Hoover didn't like the publicity Melvin Purvis got in the Dillinger case, so he had him eventually removed from the F.B.I. Hoover also didn't want to admit to the existence of the mafia. Perhaps he wanted to concentrate on two bit gangsters rather than accept the challenge of organized crime. It's scary to think the F.B.I. had such a strange man at the helm for so many years. The improvements made during his tenure could certainly have been made by someone else during all these years.

J. Edgar Hoover, the most powerful lawman in America for over fifty years, was also the country's most controversial and feared public servant. His career as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation spanned nine different presidential administrations and survived a dozen attempts to sweep him from office. During that time, Hoover completely reshaped domestic law enforcement as he expanded the reach of the FBI and transformed his G-men into an elite national crime fighting division. Despite his contributions to the criminal justice system, Hoover fell from favor soon after his death, the victim of rampant rumors and innuendo. In

From Publishers Weekly As in his smart biographies of Howard Hughes (Hughes) and Ted Turner/Rupert Murdoch (Clash of the Titans), Hack brings a novelist's flair for drama and a journalist's nose for truth to the life of another controversial figure. With unsourced renditions of Hoover's and others' internal monologues, Hack creates some transparency for the legendary FBI chief's tantalizingly opaque psyche. His most controversial conclusion about Hoover's private life is that, despite his weird intimacy with sidekick Clyde Tolson and his household collections of male nudes and Chinese ceramics, Hoover was not gay. Rather, he was dependent for sexual excitement on furtive perusal of smut from the FBI's Obscene Files and was enamored of certain Hollywood stars, named here. Hack's account of Hoover's public life, meanwhile, zings. He covers Hoover's career from his initial exploits tracking down dissidents through his headline-grabbing pursuit of Depression-era outlaws to his postwar crusade against left-wing subversion, one increasingly out of step with the country during his Vietnam-era decline. Hack's balanced but quite critical treatment details the brilliant self-promotion, which made Hoover a national hero, as well as the paranoid anticommunism, the secret files on presidents and pinkos alike, the illegal surveillance and wiretaps and the racist antagonism to the Civil Rights movement that later made him a villain in many eyes. Hack says too little about the FBI as an institution or its crime-fighting methods, treating it mainly as an extension of Hoover's personal and political agenda. But he does offer a live-wire biography of a determined, energetic, lonely and insecure man who comes off here as much a puppet as master, a consummate bureaucratic infighter all too pathetically aware of his vulnerability to shifts in political power. 6 pages of bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Hack has been an investigative writer for 20 years, covering Hollywood and the media for much of that time. He frequently appears on television as a commentator.